August 8, 1969

Mr. Thomas J. Kelley
Assistant Director, Protective Intelligence
United States Secret Service
Washington, D. C. 20226

Dear Mr. Kelley:

Your letter of August 6 does not respond to most of my letter of July 31 or to what preceded it on the same subject.

While I appreciate your enclosing "a copy of the death certificate", this cannot possibly be the death certificate referred to in Admiral Burkley's receipt of November 26 because it is dated December 6. It is, in fact, the State of Texas inquest, or should I say one of the three pages of that inquest, the copy you were kind enough to supply having originally been one page thereof that is actually two pages scotch-taped together as you supplied it.

One of my reasons for wanting a copy of the death certificate is to eliminate possible misinterpretation of error in the inquest, of which I have a copy from Commission Document 87, folio 598, as supplied by the Secret Service to the Warren Commission.

I do regret the endless need for endlessly asking what should not be secret in any free and open society and what in ours it is my right to have as a matter of law. If you will be kind enough to reread my letter of July 31, you will find that it is specific in referring to Admiral Burkley's receipt, to each of the documents I have requested and there is absolutely no doubt that these documents must be in the possession of the United States Government. It is absolutely inconceivable that a President of the United States can be murdered and such basic unsecret, unclassifiable evidence has disappeared. You tell me the Secret Service does not have it, Director Rowley says it has all been turned over to the Archives, and the Archives says they do not have it.

Perhaps if you and Director Rowley were to try and put yourselves in the position of a writer who seeks what it is the right of every American to have, who seeks on this very important subject to write as accurately and definitively as he can, and ask yourselves how you would feel getting these kinds of nonresponses and evasions from government officials who do bear certain responsibilities, you might better understand why some of my letters have been phrased as they have been.

It is almost impossible to examine the record you people are making without wondering about the very obvious conspiratorial implications.

I deeply regret the record the federal government and its various officials and employees are making for themselves in this matter.

And I ask you if you will please make direct response to my request for such of the items specified in Admiral Burkley's receipt to Mr. Bouck (which certainly the Secret Service has preserved) and, if you do not, then once again I ask that you put me in possession of what is required for me to be able to invoke the Freedom of Information Act.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg